

27. The expenditure during the period the Settlement Office was retained amounted to Rs. 7,581, but this does not include charges on account of the Special Officer's salary and allowances. As these have not been debited to forest accounts, there are no means of ascertaining them from the records of the Department.

Cost of settlements.

28. The following statement shows the areas notified under Sections 4, 19 and 26 of the Forest Act, respectively, during the year of this report :—

Areas notified under Indian Forest Act.

Forest Division.	AREA NOTIFIED UNDER			Remarks.
	Section 4.	Section 19.	Section 26.	
	Acres g.	Acres g.	Acres.	
Sukkur	34,442 29	7,891 7	33,486	
Naushahro	3,583 21	11,429 21	4,642	
Hyderabad	9,436 34	23,783 31	...	
Jerruck	9,275 21	18,270 23	...	
Total	56,738 25	61,375 2	38,128	

Areas awaiting settlement.

29. The work left to be done in connection with forest settlement is summarized below :—

SUKKUR.—All the lands selected for reservation have been finally notified under Section 19 of the Indian Forest Act, with the exception of 26,702 acres in the Kashmir Taluka, on which orders of Government are awaited.

NAUSHAHRO.—A very small area (136 acres) which has been recently notified under Section 4 remains to be settled.

HYDERABAD.—Equally good results have to be recorded in this division, as fresh selections aggregating 9,634 acres made in the Hala, Manjhand, Kotri and Hyderabad Talukas only remain to be dealt with.

JERRUCK.—Selections and settlements are complete in this division.

III.—Demarcation.

30. The Special Forest Settlement and Demarcation Officer had no time to demarcate the areas selected by him for reservation, as the tenure of the appointment was very short and he had to deal with large areas extending over the whole Province. Proposals, however, have been submitted by me to Government, through the Commissioner in Sind, offering to spare the services for six months during the touring season, 1895-96, of one of the Forest Officers attached to this Circle to carry out the demarcation on the ground of the recently selected areas by means of special marks.

Necessity for appointing a Demarcation Officer.

31. Boundaries and boundary-marks of existing reserves were carefully inspected by all Divisional Forest Officers, and such repairs as were deemed necessary were carried out, free of cost as usual, through the agency of cattle breeders, who are allowed to live within forest limits, and villagers, who are granted low-lying lands under the management of the Forest Department for cultivation. It is a pity that up to date no orders have been issued to Range Forest Officers

Boundaries, marks and paths.

to keep a record of the number of cairns replaced as well as repaired and the length of the lines cleared by these people in return for the privileges they enjoy. But it would be no exaggeration to say that this *modus operandi* saves the Department an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 at least annually, because it has to be remembered that in the Riverain Reserves, which are as a rule flooded for a period varying from three to four months, the work has to be renewed year after year.

IV.—*Surveys.*

32. Topographical sheets of the Indus Riverain Survey undertaken by a Survey party of the Government of India as soon as published are supplied to Divisional Forest Officers with a view to keeping a correct record of the changes brought about in the frontages of the riparian forest tracts by the Indus. Now that a Surveyor is attached to each Forest division, maps will be kept corrected up to date, and such a reliable record of changes will be of great value in proving the claims of the Department to new formations thrown up against forest boundaries when any disputes arise. But what is of more importance is that, with an accurate basis such as these maps will afford, it will be possible to prepare working schemes on sound silvicultural principles.

33. The permanent Surveyor attached to the Circle has performed a creditable amount of work during the year. Besides making a large number of copies of the Forest maps required for the use of Divisional and Range Forest Officers, he has surveyed about 33,000 acres of forest land, and at the close of the year was engaged in laying out coupes to be exploited in 1895-96 in the Jerruck Division.

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—*Regulation of Management.*

(a) *Working Plans and their Control.*

34. The forests continued to be worked according to the rough scheme introduced three years ago, under which one-twelfth part of each forest blocked nominally was set apart for the chief purpose of supplying firewood to the North-Western Railway and other consumers. The disadvantages of such a treatment are self-apparent and need not be discussed here, as I shall have occasion later on in this report to speak of them. Suffice it to say that proposals are being formulated with a view to the preparation of regular working plans according to the provisions of the Forest Department Code, 4th Edition.

35. A great deal has been said in previous reports regarding the peculiar conditions prevailing in the Sind Forests, one of which, and the chief one, is that the area of the most important forests is liable to serious fluctuations. But I am not prepared to recognize this difficulty as unsurmountable, and in my opinion it ought not to bar the way to a rational method of treatment being introduced. It goes without saying that it will entail additional labour in carrying out the provisions of the plan, but that cannot be considered a sufficient reason for delaying the application of sound silvicultural principles to the forests so situated.

36. The work of cutting up the forests into compartments has hardly made any progress, as during the year under report measurers possessing even an elementary knowledge of surveying could not be obtained owing to their being able to earn better wages on large public works which were under construction, such as the Jamrao Canal and the Kotri-Rohri Railway, than the Forest Department could offer.